

Minutes of the Public Works Committee - December 4, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Manke who led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Chair Richard Manke, County Board Supervisors James Behrend, Genia Bruce, Hank Carlson, Karl Nilson, Rodell Singert, David Swan

Staff Present: County Board Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legis. Associate Sandra Meisenheimer

Also Present: Public Works Director Rich Bolte, Sr. Civil Engineer Paul Barthel, Sgt. Mark Tushaus of City of Brookfield Police Dept., Sgt Jim Bramm of Menomonee Falls Police Dept., Bill Kolstad of City of Brookfield Parks & Recreation, John Waller of Village of Menomonee Falls, Jeff Chase (Engineer) of City of Brookfield, Business Mgr. Betsy Crosswaite, Bob Johnson & Andrew Johnson of Waukesha Metro Transit, Budget Specialist Linda Witkowski, County Board Supervisor Joe Griffin

Discuss Parking Regulation on CTH "K" West of Brookfield Road

Barthel, Tushaus, Bramm, Kolstad, Waller, and Chase were present. Barthel distributed maps and said they are appearing today to give the committee some background information. Tushaus also distributed a map and showed a video of the area. He stated their request (both the City of Brookfield and Village of Menomonee Falls) is to have parking restricted along CTH K (Lisbon Road) between Brookfield Road and the City of Brookfield's western limits. The total distance is about .4 of a mile or 1,700 feet. They are making this request because there is a city-owned park in the area where there are tournaments from the end of May to the end of October. The tournaments are bringing in more participants resulting in more traffic and overflow parking onto Lisbon Road. This is a public safety concern and also a traffic hazard for both motorists and pedestrians.

Tushaus said this has been going on for the last 5-6 years, and they have been posting this section of road with signs saying "temporary no parking due to police order." They have wanted to make it "permanent no parking" for a long time. Bramm also spoke in favor of "permanent no parking" in this area. Chase stated that there simply is not the road infrastructure to support parking. That combined with the character and nature of traffic make it essentially a dangerous place to have a large parking demand.

Manke asked when is this road in the highway improvement plan or the Five Year Capital Plan? Barthel said it has not made the Five Year Capital Plan. They have just updated some information in the area for the City for the intersection of Brookfield Road and Lisbon Road because that has been on their intersection signalization/intersection improvement list. Esler asked where will the overflow parking go? Tushaus said cars could be parked in the complex area and also in Arrow Park on Highway Y where a shuttle would be available. Discussion by the committee continued. Consensus by the committee was that an ordinance should be brought forward.

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 158-O-111 Modify 2003 Transit Services Budget

Crosswaite stated that when the 2003 budget was developed, it was identified back in June that there was one route (218) where budgeted revenues were erroneously doubled which instantaneously created a shortfall. Some steps were taken to adjust the error, but it wasn't enough to address the whole shortfall. What is being proposed is to transfer funds from the highway fund balance (\$120,000) and also from the general fund (\$35,000) to basically transfer the tax levy over to the transit fund.

Motion: Behrend moved, second by Carlson, to approve Ordinance 158-O-111. **Motion carried 7 – 0.**

Status Update on Routes, Ridership and Costs

Crosswaite, B.Johnson and A.Johnson were present. A.Johnson distributed a handout with updated statistics of the county routes which contained the following areas: revenue/expense, expense/revenue hour, expense/passenger, subsidy/passenger, passengers/trip and passengers/revenue hour. He stated the stats are fairly consistent this year with the major changes to routes being outright deletions, such as JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute) funded Routes 9 and 106. In terms of passengers per trip and per revenue hour, the 900 routes consistently are strong performers. Routes 905 and 906 are carrying over 20 people per trip and also 20 people per revenue hour. These are very good stats. Overall ridership is pretty flat. So far this year they've carried 537,000 people through October. Costs right now are on target with what their estimates were back when they found the budgeting error. A new vendor is being introduced – MV Transportation, who will be taking over Route 218 starting January 2, 2004. Milwaukee County Transit was running this route previously.

Nilson asked about an overall average cost per passenger. A.Johnson said he does not have that number but he will report back with it. Swan asked regarding the six areas of the statistics, which do you concentrate on? B.Johnson said all six of these efficiency/effectiveness standards are used to evaluate a route but the ones that really make a difference are the passengers per revenue hour and also subsidy per passenger. Bruce asked that statistics on peak ridership per trip be added to the report in the future. Bruce asked about Routes 9 and 106 being eliminated. A.Johnson replied that the later hours and weekend hours have proven to be losers on those routes so that additional extension of the service has been eliminated. The basic routes still remain.

Discuss State Highway Funding

Bolte distributed a handout from WisDOT regarding notification to implement winter operations service reductions, which he explained. He said the State is cutting back significantly on overtime. It recognizes the fact that the legislature did not appropriate sufficient funds to carry out maintenance on the state highway system at the same level as in the past. Statewide the figure is about \$87 million. He stated the actual variance from 2003 for Waukesha County is about \$300,000 not \$222,700. Statewide the variance is \$6 ½ million or roughly 6%.

Also included in the handout were the "Supplemental Guidelines for Winter Operations" which Bolte went on to explain. The big change is on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, when service should be limited to a maximum of 8 hours as defined in the winter maintenance section. Bolte said he has given instructions to his people to call the state maintenance person for instructions if snow is continuing to fall or icy conditions persist as hour #8 approaches. The only exceptions to this are freezing rain, black ice conditions or drifting/blowing snow. Bolte stated the net effect of this will be a reduction in the state workforce by three positions. One position is already vacant, one person will be laid off and the other will be terminated because he has not completed his probationary period. Esler asked regarding the positions that are being eliminated, are they in addition to the one that was eliminated for 2004. Bolte said yes. Essentially 4 positions are gone between 2003 and 2005.

Bolte said regarding county and state highways, he would like to think the county gives superior service that no township, city or village can match. He said they have always run an operation to get the roads clean and keep the people safe so traditionally they have pulled off at 10:00 p.m. and returned at 4:00 the next morning regardless of the conditions. He said they will continue to do their best to make sure the public is able to travel safely in the county.

Read Correspondence

Manke reviewed an email from Craig Thompson of WCA regarding information on AB 255, the “pothole liability bill.”

Meeting Approvals

Motion: Nilson moved, second by Swan, to approve committee attendance to the Transit Commission meeting on 12/11/03 at 6:30 p.m. at Waukesha City Hall. **Motion carried 7 – 0.**

Future Agenda Items

Esler stated that there is a joint meeting of Executive, Public Works, and Finance Committees on Monday, December 8 to discuss finance, intergovernmental and policy issues regarding Waukesha County’s membership in the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission.

Approve Minutes of November 13 and November 25, 2003

Motion: Behrend moved, second by Bruce, to approve the minutes of 11/13/03. **Motion carried 7 – 0.** **Motion:** Swan moved, second by Carlson, to approve the minutes of 11/25/03. **Motion carried 7 – 0.**

Verbal Report from Executive Committee Member

Manke reviewed items that were discussed and/or considered at the last meeting on 11/17/03.

Motion to adjourn: Carlson moved, second by Swan, to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Genia C. Bruce
Secretary

/sm